Policy for non-conventional energy resources

1404. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make any comprehensive policy for compulsory use of renewable energy resources through biomass, hydropower, wind, solar and municipal waste in the country, particularly for commercial establishments, as well as Government establishment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current capacity of renewable and non-conventional energy sources in the country; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for increasing the use of renewable and non-conventional energy sources in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Under the Electricity Act 2003, National Electricity Policy 2005 and Tariff Policy 2006 it is obligatory upon State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to fix certain percentage for purchase of power from renewable energy sources in the area of a distribution licensee and to fix preferential tariffs for the same.

(c) Grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity in the country has reached 11,063 MW as on 31.10.2007.

(d) The Government has been providing several concessions in the form of fiscal and financial incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy sources. These include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties. Further, as applicable to all new infrastructure projects, profits earned from sale of renewable power are exempt from Income Tax for any 10 years out of the first 15 years of project's operation. This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States. Publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/devices is also created through print, postal and electronic media and special events like the Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas are being organised. District-level Advisory Committees have been constituted in the states to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

Scheme for expansion of renewable energy

† 1405. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for expansion of different forms of renewable energy, such as wind energy; solar energy, bio-fuel, hydro-electricity, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some zones, like Special Economic Zones, would be set up for new and renewable energy systems; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi